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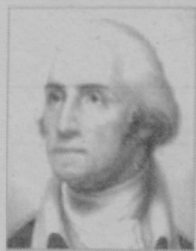
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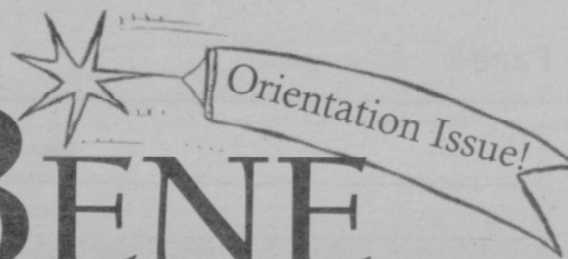
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THE GEORGE
WASHINGTON
UNIVERSITY
WASHINGTON DC

NOTA BENE

A Forum for News, Features & Opinions in the Law School Community



Wednesday, August 19, 2009

Vol. 24, No. 1

GW Law Welcomes the Incoming Class of New Students

By KATIE EARNEST
Editor-in-Chief

This week, the law school welcomes a brand new class of first year students, as well as visiting, transfer, and international students. According to Dean Anne Richard, Associate Dean for Admissions and Financial Aid, this year's admissions process was more competitive than last year's process. "We received approximately 9,700 applications for fall 2009 admission. We will be welcoming 510 new first year students this week. Our new students come from 41 states and 7 foreign countries (including South Korea, China and Canada)." The average age of the new full-time students is 24 and the average age of part-time students is 27.

Additionally, the entering academic statistics for the entering class are the highest in the history of GW Law, with the median LSAT score at 167 and median GPA at 3.76. Dean Richard also notes that 59 students have advanced degrees, stating "As is the case each year, our new students are extremely talented and accomplished."

While their academic accomplishments are notable, Dean Richard observes: "As in past years, our new students have diverse backgrounds and professional experiences. Many have spent time abroad

-- teaching, working in public interest/relief organizations. Some have worked in full-time jobs to put themselves through college; some have participated in Teach for America, AmeriCorps, Peace Corps, etc.; some have worked on political campaigns or on the Hill; others have served in the military. The majority of our new part-time students will be working full



Photo by Katie Earnest

The most notable change that comes with the entering class is the addition of a new class group, Section 15. Dean Richard explained: "This year, we added a fifth full time section in order to accommodate the much higher demand for full time study. Of the 510 new students, 460 will be full time and 50 will be part time. The

evenings (Section 15 will join the part-time class for two of their evening classes). There no longer will be a large group of students transferring from the part-time program to the full-time program at the start of the spring semester."

New students should expect a busy and productive week of Orientation, according to Student Bar Association Vice President of First Year Students Theresa Bowman. "Realistically, I think 1Ls should expect to receive a lot of information in a relatively short amount of time, but hopefully won't feel too overwhelmed by it. Everyone involved in planning orientation week did the best they could to make it an exciting, rather than stressful, experience. At the same time, it's understandable that starting 1L year will make some people a little anxious. Hopefully, new students will take advantage of all the SBA activities and enjoy the week."

Bowman explained that the purpose of Orientation Week is to give students "the lay of the land and give them a little bit of time to digest some basic, practical information about classes and services the law school offers." Bowman also said that the events can reassure nervous stu-

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Princeton Review Declares GWU 'Most Politically Active Students' in Nation

By JEREMIAH NEWHALL
Staff Writer

The Princeton Review has dubbed The George Washington University's student body the most politically active in the nation. The 2010 edition of Princeton Review: The Best 371 Colleges singled out GW for having the "Most Politically Active Students" of all schools surveyed. GW previously reached the number one spot in the 2008 edition, but slipped to number two in last year's edition.

According to Michelle Sherrard, GW's Assistant Director of Media Relations, undergraduate students contributed

up to 67,000 hours of service in the District of Columbia and around the country during the 2007-2008 academic year. Sherrard thinks the university's location plays a role in encouraging its students to be politically active. "GW is the largest institution of higher learning in D.C., just blocks from the White House, the World Bank, the Smithsonian, and countless embassies and federal agency headquarters," Sherrard said.

Although the survey did not include students at The George Washington University Law School, many GW law students spent their summers as interns

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Alan B. Morrison Joins Faculty as Associate Dean for Public Interest

By TIMOTHY FREY
Staff Writer

As it welcomes the Class of 2012 this fall, The George Washington Law School will also welcome Alan B. Morrison as the first Lerner Family Associate Dean for Public Interest and Public Service. Dean Morrison will be very busy in his new position, which will entail fostering and expanding the school's pro bono and public interest programs, cultivating student growth and attempting to effect legal change through various reform projects, teaching first year Civil Procedure to Section 13C, and fulfilling many other roles and responsibilities.

Dean Morrison was first introduced to the GW community in early June at an

event held at the Newseum on Pennsylvania Avenue. The event, intended to honor Morrison's commitment to public interest law, was attended by Morrison's family, friends, and colleagues, including Ralph Nader and Justice Stephen Breyer, as well as the Lerner family and other leaders and friends of GW Law. Dean Morrison describes that this was a very nice event, and states that he was "pleased to be honored without having to do anything yet."

In reality, however, Dean Morrison accomplished a great deal before accepting this position at GW Law. Not only has he argued 20 cases before the Supreme

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NEWS

NOTA BENE

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NOTA BENE IS A BI-WEEKLY STUDENT PUBLICATION AT THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL. NOTA BENE SERVES AS A FORUM FOR NEWS, FEATURES & OPINIONS IN THE LAW SCHOOL COMMUNITY. WE SEEK SUBMISSIONS FROM ALL AT GW LAW SCHOOL.

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dents and help introduce them to new friends. "A lot of students come to law school really expecting their first year to be some horrifying experience they have to suffer through, and I think the Orientation program here does a good job of trying to tell students that it just doesn't have to be that way."

This year's introduction to the law school contains a lot of the same events from previous years and a few new surprises. Bowman notes: "2L volunteers will recognize a lot of returning events from last year. The new student meet & greets were very popular last year, so little was changed. This year we added some venues in other parts of the city, such as Local 16 on U Street, to try to get new students to explore the DC that exists outside of foggy bottom and dupont circle. Some other new events include the Softball game on the Mall and the Scavenger Hunt on Saturday, tours of Foggy Bottom and the GW campus, and a used book sale."

Bowman remembers her own Orientation Week was fun, especially the baseball game. "I don't even like the Nationals so I almost didn't go, but it was such a fun, laid-back way to end Orientation week. This year, we have the baseball game on Friday again, new students can buy tickets in Lerner 101 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday."

Dean David Johnson, the Senior Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, said that a lot of credit for Orientation goes to the Student Bar Association. He stated, "Many thanks to the SBA and especially Theresa Bowman. She's been awesome and they've been incredibly helpful." He noted that Bowman especially worked for this year's Orientation to contain changes in programming that are meant to provide for more student interaction with the faculty. Dean Johnson stated that there are two days of faculty panels with more faculty

participating. The new "subject-matter" deans, such as those for environmental law, IP, and public affairs, are making sure that panels happen in their subject areas as well.

When asked about what he wanted new students to get out of Orientation, Dean Johnson had many things to say, including a warning for students to avoid stressing out about Orientation events and the first classes. "Something that gets lost in law school – this is still education, come to learn first – grades will come later."

Dean Richard had similar advice, stating: "My advice to new students is to work hard and stay confident. They likely will be overwhelmed for the first couple of months as they try to tackle material that seems incomprehensible. But, as we all know, it will get much better once they get the hang of it."

Additionally, students should take time to appreciate professors during their first year. "You look at your first year schedule and it's a list of all the best professors in the nation. Every section has some real superstars and they're there not to just help you get an 'A.' They're there to teach you something."

Dean Johnson also advised new students to "[t]ake advantage of each other – you guys are interesting and diverse, make friends with each other." If students have questions or concerns, he said: "There are two places to start with. First, your Dean's Fellows are the best initial upper level resource. Then come to Student Affairs – we don't have all the answers, but we can direct you to best resources."

"Finally, there's the cliché GW advice – you're in Washington, D.C., like wanting to be in movies and being in Hollywood, you're in the middle of all. The three major areas of the law are here – the judiciary, lobbying and legislation, and the best law firms. All three are here in spades. Get outside these walls, you're paying to be here."

SBA
CORNER

By JOHN SORRENTI
SBA President

Welcome to (or back to) GW Law! You've chosen an excellent place to pursue your legal education and will be in Washington, DC during an exciting and exhilarating time. Our nation currently grapples with health care reform and the debate is sure to be interesting and engaging when our law makers return to Congress from their summer break. Our own surging Washington Nationals recently won 8 straight games and are battling the Kansas City Royals for the dubious position of first pick in next year's draft. And at GW Law you will not only receive a top-notch education but you will join a wonderful community of academics, professionals, and classmates who will be your friends and colleagues for a lifetime.

There are exciting new developments and many opportunities to get involved at GW Law. The law school recently established an Associate Dean of Public Interest and hired the esteemed Alan Morrison to head this position. We have over forty student organizations covering all sorts of interests from the Equal Justice Foundation, to the Federalist Society, to the GW Sailing Club. And if there isn't a group that matches your interest, get your friends together and create one! Whatever your fancy, I encourage you to get involved and make the most of your time here at GW Law. Although three years sounds like a long time (and that first year may seem like it lasts forever) it will go by quickly.

The Student Bar Association (SBA) is here to help you enjoy your time at GW Law and act as the stu-

dents' voice to the administration. As President of the SBA, I will be sending you emails and updates about a variety of events and activities that will occur throughout the year. Hopefully I'll keep you not only informed and engaged but also amused enough so that you don't have to set up an automatic filter to your trash folder for my emails! Starting with Orientation, we've got a number of fun things planned this year to help you enjoy yourself and give you a break from your studies. In addition,

we're always here to address any questions or concerns you may have about GW Law. We're excited to work with you and make sure that you have the best experience possible in law school.

In the next few days you will go through Orientation, during which you will have the opportunity to hear from Deans and professors of our law school, as well as

meet your new classmates and friends. It will be a busy and occasionally frantic time as you get acclimated to a new environment and new experience. Please take advantage of this opportunity to familiarize yourself with your new surroundings and get ready for the beginning of the school year. There are a number of eager student volunteers ready and willing to help you out and answer any questions you may have. I encourage you to reach out and contact the SBA and the returning students as you find your place at GW Law. Once again, it is my distinct pleasure to welcome you to GW Law and I look forward to sharing this tremendous experience with you.

A Quick Look at the
Class of 2012

510 New First Year Students

41 States, 7 Foreign Countries (including South Korea, China, and Canada)

Average age of full-time student: 24

Average age of part-time student: 27

Average LSAT: 167

Average GPA: 3.76

Number of students with advanced degrees: 59

OPINIONS

An Atypical Student's View of Law School

BY RYAN BOWEN
Opinions Editor

I've always wanted to be a blacksmith. The idea of making something with your hands has a real strong appeal to me, plus it's good exercise, and your final product is likely going to be something pretty cool. Being a carpenter would be neat too. I spent a week working in my grandpa's woodshop one summer and made myself a pretty intricate end-table. While I nearly lost my pinky finger in the process, overall it was a very positive experience. I've also at one point or another considered cop/FBI/Secret Service agent, writer, joining the Army, park ranger, renaissance festival worker (possibly as a blacksmith), and tug boat operator.

The point here is that I don't consider myself to be your archetypical law student. I have a Type-B personality, I don't really care about making a ton of money, and I lack any grandiose ideas about changing the world. When people ask why I went to law school I usually say because I have a degree in Psychology and I knew I didn't want to pursue that

any further. The real reason though is because I grew up on "Law & Order," as well as "Matlock" reruns and even the occasional "Perry Mason" TV-movie. I had a very romanticized image of the prosecutor seeking out the facts and then

And, if you take one thing from this article, let it be this: DO NOT BE THE GUNNER!

taking part in an epic battle of wits in the courtroom. Even though before law school I had already braced myself that this image wasn't real life, I still became quickly disillusioned with the field that I thought I would be pursuing. As they tell you in Crim Law, 90-something % of criminal cases simply settle, and when

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More Questions Than Answers on the Path to Law School

BY LIZ SAXE
Opinion Columnist

There have been many days recently when the path from law school hopeful to law student has been littered with a barrage of questions that, at that moment, seem impossible to answer. Perhaps these questions began years ago with the childhood standard: "What do you want to be when you grow up?"

More recently, the questions have ranged from the mundane (date of birth, permanent address, mailing address, address at which you may be reached over the summer – how many addresses can we have?) to the introspective ("Why do you want to go to law school?"). Some of the questions have been head-scratchers ("If Paul cannot be ahead of Robert in line and Trish has to be somewhere before Quincy and after Oliver, but only if Ulga is first, all of the following could be the meaning of life EXCEPT"); others have been agonizingly vague (two pages, double spaced, size 11 or 12 font ... go).

One of the many trips to the post box (I admit occasionally checking several times in one day – and by "occasionally" I mean I'd skip some Sundays) changed the questions. Finding a thick envelope in the mail brings a unique excitement, and demands new answers to new questions. We all found our way through the "which law school are you going to attend" minefield and landed on GW.

Once that decision was made, in my experience at least, the questions being asked of me have faded into the background as the questions I myself

desperately want answered have amplified. I still hear a fair amount of "what type of law do you want to study?" which I assiduously avoid answering. While I have my leanings, there are so many areas of law about which I know nothing, and I have a underlying suspicion that the areas I do think I know something about will reveal themselves differently.

But now, after a long process through which I myself had done much of the answering, I have been left with a summer of anticipation, and the questions I want answered have been my constant companions. What subjects will immediately pique my interest? What will my new classmates be like? Is [insert-your-most-dreaded-class-here] really as bad as they say? How long into the semester will I survive before the Socratic method catches up with me?

The good news is that these questions will likely be answered in short order. After a few days of mandatory bonding, mixed in with the requisite panel discussions, followed by several nervous moments trying to determine the most strategic route to the next class, we'll settle into our new lives. After those initial exhilarating days, (and after reading 462 pages of background material in size 10 font), we'll be ready to confront the next round of questions flying at us.

Maybe more importantly, we'll be ready to seek out the answers to whatever

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From the Desk of the Editor

Rudyard Kipling wrote: "If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew/To serve your turn long after they are gone,/And so hold on when there is nothing in you/Except the Will which says to them: 'Hold on'..." If you can do this, then you will be a man in the eyes of the world.

Practically every high school English class studies this poem, noting it as an example of fortitude and inspiration in the face of adversity. And yet you really have no idea what the hell it means until you have experienced challenges yourself.

So. Welcome to the challenge. Scared yet?

In the midst of all the speeches, free food, and avalanche of tips, information, and advice, I bet your head is starting to hurt. You've gotten your casebooks from the Bookstore and every Orientation program you attend has some handout or packet that will end up at the bottom of some desk drawer only to be discovered when you move out in three years. You've gotten your first assignments and you may have even skimmed the cases, thinking that it's got to be some kind of joke that the professor wants you to read THIS MUCH in two days. And you're probably also secretly excited, filled with the confidence of someone who has rocked the LSAT, scaled Mount Rainier, discovered the cure for cancer, or whatever it is you "amazing" new students did before you set foot in Foggy Bottom.

You trace your fingers over the gold lettering of your civil procedure casebook and practice saying, "Hello, I'm a law student" while pacing the halls or riding the Metro. You know you're going to love it here.

And you will love it here, really you will. And you will hate it here. Really, you will.

Ok, maybe not hate – that's a strong word. But we guarantee you that there will be times when you will want to quit. When you finish reading a thirty page case and discover you have no idea what the holding is. When you've memorized a statute backwards and forwards, only to become tongue-tied when the professor calls on you. When your friends and family start saying, "We never see you anymore, you can't be studying ALL the time..." When your classmate starts listing the Rules of Civil Procedure alphabetically and you can't even spell "subpoena." When you realize that, yup, you are definitely wearing yesterday's shirt. And you don't even care.

But when the casebook ends, when exams are done, when the hard lounge goes dark for the winter holiday break, you'll realize that was, in its own weird and twisted way, really a lot of fun. Because you are meant to be here. Like Dean Lawrence says, you are the best and the brightest, and you came here for a reason – to advance your intelligence, to achieve greater success,

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Why Are We Here?

BY HANNAH GEYER
Opinion Columnist

I'm thrilled I still have two more years of law school. After the mental boot camp that was 1L year, I was exhausted and frustrated, but relieved that I still had two more years before graduation.

What happened? The economy royally tanked. I may not have been one of the students applying to law school for that reason, but my timing was pretty good. As we hear news stories about the economy's continual plummet, more and more students are applying to law schools in the hopes of not having to find a job just quite yet, securing an advanced degree for a chance to get better employment, and being able to live off loans for just a few more years (I admit, I love having loan money to do with as I please!).

The University of Minnesota Law School saw their number of applications jump nearly 30% last year. Perhaps more stunningly, a recent Kaplan survey of 1,000 students who took the February LSAT indicated that 40% were influenced by the economy when they made their decision to apply to law school. Although the legal field has been affected by the downturn, service-oriented positions tend to remain relatively stable during recessions, so getting a law degree now seems like an investment.

But is this a good idea? In the next few years, we will see people who are truly passionate about the legal profession share classrooms with those who came to law school as a last resort in a tough economy. Phrased like that, it might be easy to suggest that those individuals are doing the legal profession a disservice, but is this really the case?

While I didn't come to law school because of the economy, I did come to

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The Nota Bene invites readers' opinions. Letters must be signed, dated and include a graduation year or title. E-mail submissions to notabene@law.gwu.edu

The Nota Bene reserves the right to edit all submissions for space, grammar, clarity and vulgarity.

FEATURES

Embracing Butler's Hip-Hop Theory of Justice

BY ELIZABETH WESTBROOK
Staff Writer

On the first day of Criminal Procedure last year I was prepared to face the legendary Professor Paul Butler after having read and reread the assigned cases till my eyes hurt (which turned out to be a good call as I was called on both the first and second days). I'd heard the tall tales of the intimidating but brilliant former prosecutor's daunting and some would even say adversarial style of Socratic teaching. Most people had told me that if I had the guts to take his class he would be one of the most, if not the most engaging Professors in law school—but beware his unorthodox tactics. One of these tactics manifested that first day when Professor Butler informed us he wanted us to hear from some scholars on criminal justice. Promptly NWA's "Fuck the Police" and other selections from such scholars as Nas and Jay-Z flooded the room while the lyrics of each song lit up the pull down screen like a sort of gangstified-powerpoint.

The legends were all true. I won't deny his incoming classes any surprises by enumerating his other class eccentricities here—instead I will just iterate that Paul Butler is everything you've always heard him to be—and most of all, he is a criminal justice expert. His unique experiences and unique ideas shaped by those experiences make his new book, *"Let's Get Free: A Hip Hop Theory of Justice"* a welcome addition to the catalog of criminal law scholarship.

"Let's Get Free" condemns what Butler calls the United States' "lock-'em-up culture". He starts the book with sobering statistics about the percentage of America's population in prison verses the percentages of populations imprisoned around the world and throughout history. Most notably, the United States has 25% of the world's prisoners but only 4% of the world's population. Out of 300 million Americans, 2.3 million are behind bars. These figures give the United States the

honor of having the highest incarceration rate in the history of the free world—and the rate of incarceration is getting higher every year.

Butler believes that our proclivity for locking up such a huge cross-section of the population actually makes us less safe and lays the blame for this situation squarely on the "War on Drugs". He contends that the war on drugs is completely counterproductive—incarcerating non-violent offenders and failing to spend equal sums on treatment and rehabilitation as is spent on punishment. Butler attacks the roots of prohibition as springing from skewed racial stereotypes. For example, assessing all Chinese as opium-addicted and Mexicans as chronic marijuana smokers. (Pun perhaps intended.) He highlights several ways in which the War on Drugs fails to promote society, among them the victimless nature of drug crimes—the people we put behind bars for possessing controlled substances are not violent people and pose no risk to the general population. When we put these people in jail with every kind of violent offender, however, we give them a crash course in violent criminality. People come in with non-violent pot habits and leave as hardened criminals who pose a danger to law-abiding America.

To combat this growing threat to the American justice system, Butler has some advice to anyone who finds his or herself in the jury box: strategic jury nullification. This means that when you find yourself the finder-of-fact in a non-violent drug related offense, you should use your power to acquit—even when the defendant is guilty. Butler explains that this is a constitutional right that has shaped our rights as Americans since the judicial system's birth. When the people who staffed the Underground Railroad were

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Dumpster Diving, Zombies and Other Pre-L Adventures

BY JILLIAN MEEK
Staff Writer

I knew that I was supposed to be nervous about my first year of law school, but until this spring, I had no idea just how afraid I should be. I spent my senior year of undergrad working in a restaurant, and every time a well-meaning legal guest would try to prepare me for the horror of The 1L Year, I always shrugged it off with a mix of hubris and pure ignorance. They would look at me in mute sadness as I smiled and said, "I'm not worried. I'm sure it won't be that bad." Often, they would leave me a large tip with the advice to invest in a bottle of tequila and a copy of "The Paper Chase." As they left the restaurant, they would shake their heads at me. They knew I would soon learn the error of my carefree ways.

It wasn't until Preview Day that I became aware of my own ignorance. At first, I was confused why all of the GW personnel were speaking in such soft, mellow tones, as though they were trying to soothe a room full of kindergartners on Red Bull. After all, there's no reason to be nervous, right? I got a little nervous when I realized I don't even know what the names of my classes mean, much less what is going to be covered in them. I am only now realizing that Torts will probably not involve baking delicious cakes for a semester. Then they opened the floor up for student questions. I had no idea how many more things I had to worry about. "Are there grocery stores in DC?" one incoming student asked. I suddenly had a very post-apocalyptic vision of myself foraging through trash piles for scraps on my way to class, fighting off 2Ls and homeless people to find enough food

to survive first year. Another student expressed concern about finding an apartment less than an hour commute from campus. An hour? Would I be dumpster diving in West Virginia?

After I stopped hyperventilating, I tried to convince myself that I was overreacting. After all, the upperclassmen didn't look like they were half-starved zombies. They had clearly found food and shelter, passed their classes, and lived to tell about it. I managed to keep myself calm until I began reading the discussion forum provided for incoming 1Ls. Suddenly, the age-old debate between Mac and PC became the stuff of my nightmares. The more I read, the more I became convinced that owning a Mac would lead to flunking out of school, turning into a pumpkin at midnight, and shooting your eye out. The fact that I was using a Mac to access this forum in the first place filled me with dread. The more questions I read, the more things I discovered to stress about. Everyone just seemed so much more informed than I was about exactly what to worry about.

Fortunately, over the last few weeks, I have met enough members of the class of 2012 to learn that my nervousness is pretty widespread. I was not the only one who worried about the projected lack of grocery stores, or the computer requirements, or the workload, or any of the other hundreds of things a stressed out Type-A personality can concoct. General consensus seems to be what I thought in the first place, many moons ago - it can't really be that bad, can it?

Princeton from page 1.

for both local or national government agencies. Still, several students interning at federal government offices this summer described their work and themselves as mostly apolitical. 2L Bill McGonigle spent his summer in the Office of Litigation at the Small Business Association, and doesn't consider most of his work inherently political, although it is "political in its own way." McGonigle described the political scene at the law school as laid back. "[GW Law students] don't feel that they need to wear their views on their sleeves," McGonigle said.

Some students reserve their activism for particular causes. 2L Sara Marshman said that, for the most part, she avoids political causes at school except one: animal rights. "Other than my efforts promoting animal welfare as the VP of the Student Animal Legal Defense Fund, I consciously try to stay out of [politics]," Marshman said. When Marshman and her friends at the law school do discuss politics, she said they tend to focus on fostering discussion and learning each other's views, rather than engaging in heated debates.

Other law students channeled their political energy into their future careers. 2L Thanh Nguyen split her summer between working at the Department of Justice and a law firm, and she has worked extensively in both state and federal government. Nguyen isn't very involved with political activism on campus and said she isn't familiar with the political scene at the

While political activism may not dominate the law school's campus, graduates frequently go on to careers in government.

law school, but that doesn't mean she's not politically active, she said. She just focuses more of her energy on off-campus political participation and professional development. "I'm out networking with D.C. government people more than I hang out with GW people," Nguyen said.

While political activism may not dominate the law school's campus, graduates frequently go on to careers in

government. The Princeton Review estimates that 11 percent of the law school's graduates work in government, excluding clerkships, and cited the Department of Justice as one of the most frequent employers of the law school's newly-minted JDs.

The Princeton Review based its rankings on a survey of undergraduate students at 371 colleges and universities. The survey asked students to rank on a five-point scale how popular political/activist groups were on their campus, from "Extremely" to "Nonexistent." The Princeton Review did not define "politically active" for their survey.

Law students can rank the law school in the next Princeton Review survey at <http://survey.review.com>. In the 2009 edition of The Princeton Review's Best 174 Law Schools, The George Washington University Law School was ranked ninth in the nation for "Best Classroom Experience" and tenth for "Best Quality of Life." The Princeton Review also called the law school's Student Bar Association "one of the best in the nation." Law schools are not ranked on a "politically active" list.

Georgetown University Law

Center did not crack the top 10 in any category.

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questions form in our own minds. We all bring a record of accomplishment and myriad experiences and perspectives from around the world that will both create and help answer questions in our studies. Hopefully our shared experiences will help answer others' questions as well (or, at very least, generate obscure inside jokes).

So, to all my new classmates, best of luck (and to all the 2-, 3- and 4Ls, please help!), and I hope that a year from now, when we're more stressed and frazzled, we can all remember the excitement that comes with the anticipation of and expectations for our next great experience. Until then, here's hoping you find a good locker-mate (likely), your first case briefing is only mildly painful (probable) and that the Nats can win a game for us during orientation (well ... we'll see).

FEATURES

Guide to Surviving GW Law

Well, your bags are unpacked, you've found your way to the law school, you may have even gotten your books already. Now what? Well, you've got three more years left, you might as well make the best of them. We've put together our own guide to D.C. for your reference – tidbits, hangouts, all the best information we believe that will make the most of your time here at GW Law. Enjoy!

The Essentials:

- Get a SmartTrip card from D.C. Metro. Keep at least \$5.00 on it – because you don't want to be the schmuck yelling, "Hey guys, wait up! I gotta put money on my card!" when the last train to Vienna is about to leave.
- Find your local grocery store ASAP – or better yet, get PeaPod or some other delivery type service so you can make your own delicious lunch instead of scavenging the free pizza in the hard lounge.
- Buy a flashdrive or sign up for an online back-up service like Mozie's. Save all your files every week. You don't want to be THAT 1L whose computer crashes the night before the exam...
- RELAX! You're a smart cookie, you'll do fine here.

Best Music Scene – For discovering those artists that you be blasting at top volume on your iPod when your roommate brings home yet another screamer:

- Black Cat, 1811 14th St NW, www.black-catdc.com
- Birchmere, 3701 Mount Vernon Ave, Alexandria, VA, www.birchmere.com
- 9:30 Club, 815 V St NW, www.930.com

Solomon's Choice: Book or Beer? It's 9:00pm on a Friday and you KNOW you should be working on your LRW memo. But if you spend one more minute in this nuthouse, you're going to scream. Here are some places around the area you can go and have a beer (or six) and schlep back to campus within ten minutes to continue your 1L drudgery:

- Tonic at Quigley's Pharmacy, 2036 G St NW
- 51st State, 2512 L St NW
- Bottom Line Saloon, 1716 Eye St NW

Free to Be You and Me – You've spent all your Stafford money on a Prada bag. Oops. Here are some free activities to get you through a semester of Ramen noodles and pirating wireless.

- Kennedy Center Millennium Stage
- Jazz in the Sculpture Garden, National Gallery of Art, Fridays 5:00-8:30pm, 7th St and Constitution Ave.
- The Smithsonian Museums.
- The Annual High Heel Drag Race hosted by J.R.'s. October 27th at 9:00pm, 17th St between P and Q Sts. Get there early to snag a key spot of curb to watch hundreds of drag queens sprint down the streets of D.C.
- Law Revue Open Mic Night. Come see your talented classmates sing their hearts out this fall, date TBA.

Best Day Trips – Take one weekend to get the hell out of the city and away from the Restatement of Contracts...or at least keep it in the trunk:

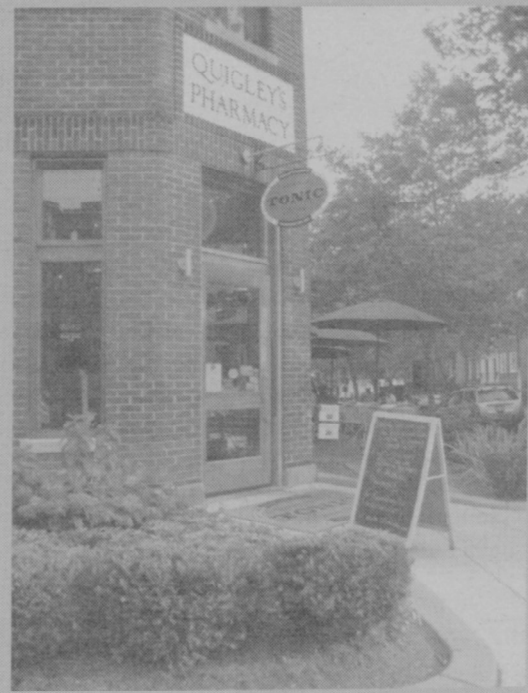
- Charlottesville
- Annapolis
- Baltimore
- Wineries of Loudoun County and Leesburg Outlets

Best Date Places – Contrary to popular law student belief, the Uptowner is NOT an acceptable dinner date. Impress your better half with these fun outings:

- Dave & Busters – Bring out your inner kid with a variety of arcade games and a full bar. 11301 Rockville Pike, Kensington, MD.
- Nationals Game – They're getting better, we swear!! 1500 South Capitol St SE, get tickets at www.mlb.com.
- Rocket Bar – Skee-ball, Buckhunter, and shuffleboard. Need we say more? 714 7th St NW (Chinatown).
- E Street Cinema – Go beyond the usual popcorn flick and see some old classics and new indie gems. 555 11th St NW.
- Restaurant Week, August 24-30th. Over 180 restaurants offer three-course meals at \$20.09 for lunch and \$35.09 for dinner (beverages, gratuity, and tax not included). For more information, see washington.org/restaurantwk

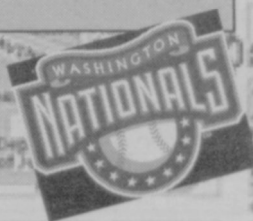
Late Night Eats – We could make another crack about late-night studying, but seriously, we all know you just have the munchies:

- Papa Johns, 2525 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Washington, DC, (202) 293-7272, www.papajohns.com
- D.C. Snacks, <http://www.dcsnacks.com/>
- The 7-11 at 25th and Eye Sts.
- Doctor Delivery, (703) 524-0800, <https://www.drdelivery.com/washington-dc-food-delivery>



Tonic at Quigley's Pharmacy

Photo by Katie Earnest



FEATURES

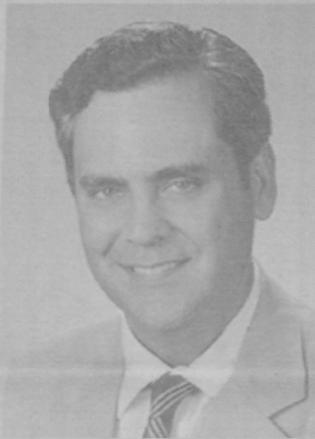
"When I Was a 1L..."

Professors Share Their First Year Experiences

BY DENISE L. TURNER
Staff Writer

As an incoming 1L, you are probably excited to begin your journey to becoming a lawyer. Over the next three (or four) years, you will have the opportunity to take challenging classes, meet people who will become your best friends, and learn from some of the best (and funniest) professors. Your experience will be unique, like you, and it will unlikely be matched by any other educational endeavor.

Aside from the Bar Reviews, study groups, and grueling reading assignments, your law school experience will undoubtedly be shaped most of all by your 1L professors. Some of your professors have been around for a while, while some you might mistake for fellow classmates. But like you, their law school experience was unique, and as an introduction to law school and some of your professors, Nota Bene presents: When I was a 1L...



Professor Turley
J.D. Northwestern University

"My only memory from [1L] classes is getting lost and walking into contracts class late when the over-bearing professor was bellowing: 'I refuse to teach to the lowest common denominator.' He glared at me as I took a seat next to someone who would be one of my best friends in law school. She introduced herself and I introduced myself as 'the lowest common denominator.' Unfortunately, it was a bit too loud and I was promptly growled at by the contracts professor. It would sum up our relationship with that professor for the entire year, but I quickly found a mystical place called torts that offered both sanctuary and peace to my troubled mind.

Additionally, I have spent the last few years systemically destroying any picture of myself from the '70s and '80s to wipe out any record of hair and clothing styles."

"When I was a 1L, Britney Spears was still in the top 5, and no one had ever heard of an iPod or Facebook. There was great interest among the students in another presidential election, but this one involving Bush and Gore and not McCain or Obama. It was really the first year that all students at my law school seemed to have computers, but the big classroom distraction was not Facebook or gmail chat, but regularly, old-fashioned e-mail."



Professor Fontana
J.D. Yale University



Professor Kerr
J.D. Harvard University

"When I was a 1L, we had assigned seats in a very large lecture hall for our Torts class on the first day of school. Every seat in the room was taken, and I was assigned a seat in the last row in the far corner of the hall. A very tall and broad-shouldered man named Ted was assigned the seat in front of me, and Ted was so big that I couldn't see the professor from my seat. I asked Ted if we could switch seats so I could see, but he refused. I asked him if he would try to lean one way so I could lean the other and see the professor, but he refused that, too. It was hard to concentrate without being able to see the professor, so I ended up bringing two Boston phone books to Torts class to solve the problem. I spent the entire semester of class sitting on the two phone books."



Professor Schechter
J.D. Harvard University

"When I was a 1L, there was one person still on the faculty who had clerked for Supreme Court Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes. (For those not familiar with him, Holmes was appointed to the Supreme Court by Teddy Roosevelt!) The movie 'The Paper Chase' starring John Houseman as the fearsome Professor Kingsfield came out during our first year and we all thought that our contracts professor had been the inspiration for Kingsfield. And tuition -- \$2400 for the year, plus a \$155 health fee and \$30 for 'multilithed and xeroxed materials.'"

"When I was a 1L, I was the first person called on in Torts. During and after the give and take of the Socratic method, I had absolutely no idea what I said; my notes on that case were by far the weakest of the entire semester.

While new technology seems to have changed legal education in certain ways, the basics of legal education are still the same: students experience the same jitters the first time they're called on; they still have to read carefully, be prepared to discuss the cases, and try to synthesize all of the material from the semester."



Professor Suter
J.D. University of Michigan

FEATURES

"When I Was a 1L..."

Continued



Dean Maggs
J.D. Harvard University

"When I was 1L, it was 1985. The economy was growing, and all of the large law firms were expanding. Almost every 1L could expect a paying job as a summer associate upon completing the first year. We did not know how good we had it."

"When I was a 1L, they had just installed a single LEXIS terminal in the library. We didn't get a WESTLAW terminal (in the library, of course) until my 2L year. And as 1L's, we had 8:00 a.m. classes, five days a week."



Professor Schooner
J.D. College of William & Mary

"When I was a 1L, the only place for students to gather was at Au Bon Pain (and yes, the same people were sitting there even 20 years ago). And 1L teaching styles tended to be a bit different then - I had the late Prof. David Seidelson for Torts - and we had to stand up when he called on us; the person on call would be up for half, and sometimes even the whole class. Memorable experience; maybe I should try that..."



Professor Tuttle
J.D. GWU

As you can see, the experience (and humor) of your law professors varies greatly. However, one of the many lessons we can all learn from this is: be grateful for the internet and LexisNexis.

All joking aside, you are about to embark on a great journey. Don't be afraid to let these, and other, professors guide you through it. The tests will be hard, the reading time-consuming, and being "on-call" terrifying, (even when you know the right answer). You will love some of your professors and generally like the rest, but one thing is for sure, they will all teach you something, and they will all be a part of success, in whatever form that may take.

Welcome to law school, 1Ls.

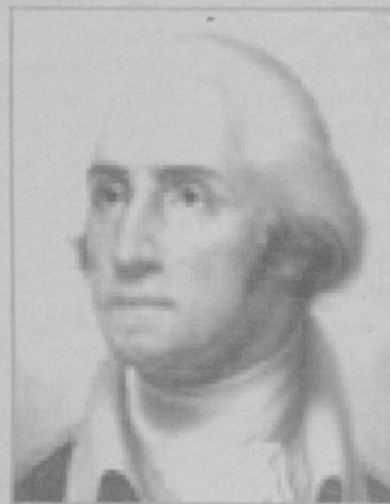
Atypical from page 3.

they do its not like when Jack McCoy sits down with the criminal, parrying and reposting with intellectual barbs.

Still, even with my world turned upside-down, I flirted with the idea of pursuing criminal law. After working in the Criminal Division of the DOJ 1L summer and throughout my 2L year, I had to choose between working in the Ohio Attorney General's office or with

the IRS Office of Chief Counsel in their International Tax section. I'm from Columbus, OH, and everything I learned while interviewing at the AG's office made it seem like I would really like it there. However, with the economy plummeting and budget-crunched states instituting hiring freezes, I decided it would be more prudent of me to take the job with the IRS. My feelings towards tax law are much like my feelings towards psychology: it's very interesting

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but it's just not something I'm passionate about. However, passion for me gave way to prudence, and now I'm likely going to be spending at least three years working at the IRS after graduation. This is by no means an awful prospect: the people I work with are great, it's a stress-free environment, and I will still make good money. But you know what they say about a dream deferred . . .

The lesson I would pass on to all of you from my own experience is don't

***When people ask why
I went to law school
I usually say because
I have a degree in
Psychology and I knew I
didn't want to pursue that
any further.***

let law school shape you into something you're not, and don't change your plans just because you feel it's the appropriate thing to do. If you've never used a study group before, you don't have to just because "everyone" else is or because a certain torts professor makes it seem like the quintessential step towards law school success. My limited experience with study groups is that they are often counter-productive by wasting time on irrelevant topics that don't actually help you for the exam ("Wait, what if instead the fee simple was on Mars, and you were tenants-in-common with a Martian? What do you guys think the answer would be then?"). Along those lines, don't get swept up in what everyone else says is important. No offense 1Ls, but every piece of advice you hear from one another is speculation and conjecture. If you want to know about how important being on moot court is,

which summer job is best for you, or whether you should submit something to the Nota Bene (you totally should), ask someone who would actually know: your dean's fellow, the CDO, or a professor, not someone who is just following the same rumors that you are. Also, if you haven't yet, sign up for the mentoring program and actually use it, even if just once.

Having said that, be sure to take advantage of every opportunity you have here. There are scores of legal organizations and extracurriculars that will bombard you in your first weeks. Go to the meetings (even if to only get the free pizza) and just see if you like it (just remember that the best, most prestigious and exciting organization you can be a part of is unequivocally the Nota Bene). Also, don't limit yourself to what you thought you would be doing before you came. Never in a million years would I have thought I would be doing tax law for a living or writing about nail-buffer patents for a journal, but here I am. Maybe environmental law, government contracts, or legislation are where you are destined to be and you just don't know it yet. And, if you take one thing from this article, let it be this: DO NOT BE THE GUNNER! You'll thank me when you actually make friends and Maggs doesn't cringe every time you raise your hand (which I always found hilarious).

Lastly, shameless plugs aside, if you have an opinion you'd like to share, be it about law school, politics, DC, or anything else, don't just put it up on Facebook, Twitter, or your blog. Submit it to Nota Bene! This paper is a product of students for students and everyone should feel free to offer something up. That said, good luck and I look forward to hopefully seeing articles from many of you!

FEATURES

TERENCE G. SCHOONE-JONGEN

Reversible Errors

Five Things They Don't Want You To Know. Whoever "They" Are...

So, here we are. Orientation. How do you like it so far? Is it pretty much what you expected? I bet it is. How many different ways are there to do orientation, anyway? That's not a question—that's a challenge.

Anyway, welcome orientation-eers. As you can see, Schoone-Jongen's the name and you've stumbled into my little journalistic (*snicker*) lair here. Have a seat. But don't get comfortable. You lose your edge when that happens. In ages past, this column has been something of a miscellany, and that trend may well continue this year, although the possibility of a unifying theme has not yet been extinguished.

But not for today, chief!

No, today seems like a day that is begging for a list. So it shall be written, so it shall be done (although, in this case, the line between the doing and the writing is a bit, how shall I say, blurry). Because this is the orientation issue, and I'm keen on *helping my readers get their bearings, let's talk about five things I'm looking forward to experiencing again at the start of this year—five things not typically covered in orientation.*

1. Loosening the Gordian Knot that is WashLaw. Look, you can shop for your books at the university bookstore,

and chances are that you will find what you need, for the most part (ask me about my Corporations casebook from last year some time). But there's more adventure to be had if you go to WashLaw. Literally. The employees do a lot of yelling at each other (friendly, mostly). They may even yell at you. But you need to talk to them, because you may not be able to find anything there without help. Indeed, you may not be able to find help. But, assuming you do find help, as well as the books that you need, the prices are sweet.

2. 3 a.m. dining at Mehran. You may not yet know what Froggy Bottom is, but you will, soon enough. Anyway, there may come a night when you realize that it's absurdly late, that you are at Froggy Bottom, and that you should go home. But wait! You're ravenously hungry. Solution: delicious Indian food next door at Mehran. It will seem like a good idea at the time, and it will be. I recommend any of the dishes there, chased with a can of Diet Dr. Pepper. Try keeping the conversation light, however. Heated conversations at that hour end with chair-throwing.

3. Thursdays. There are so many reasons. I will not enumerate them. Find them yourself. You've obviously got the time, if you've read this far.

4. Pleasant conversation at the Wendy's in the Marvin Center. The dialogue there can be nothing short of scintillating. Consider:

Them (glaring): Can I help you?

Me: Yeah, I'd like a Frosty and a Baconator.

Them: Huh?

Me: A Frosty and a Baconator.

Them: Huh?

Me: A Frosty and a Baconator.

(pause)

Them: We don't have that.

(pause)

Me: Well, you have signs for both of them right behind you.

(long, awkward pause)

Them: Oh, a Frosty AND a Baconator.

Me: Yes. (pause) Please.

The Frosty was delicious. As was the Baconator, although regret followed hard on the heels of the deliciousness.

5. Overhearing The Drama. With a capital D. I'm guessing that orientation doesn't vary wildly from year to year. If that assumption is correct, that means there is a good chance

that you have heard, or will soon hear, someone outline the shocking similarities between high school and law school. It's entirely possible to string the analogy out too long. For example, your high school newspaper probably didn't feature some chump columnist whose offerings consisted of "lists" of whatever came into his (or her) mind at any given moment. (Ba-dum, cha!) That having been said, the romantic intrigues here rival, and perhaps surpass, those of high school. Be prepared, my friends, be prepared. You haven't seen hooking-and-breaking-up at this level in years, unless you're a fan of the soap operas, and even then...well. But remember! Oh, please, pretty please, for your own sake, remember: despite being one of the larger law schools in the country, our dear George Washington Law is shockingly small. This is to say: don't complain about your relationship at school. Your complaints will be overheard. And then hilarity will ensue, to say the least.

So, there you have it. Five points of interest, and all within walking distance. That's all for today's program; tune in next time, and we'll just see what happens.

Morrison from page 1.

Court, including winning cases such as Goldfarb v. Virginia State Bar and INS v. Chadha, he has also worked with Ralph Nader to co-found Public Citizen—a national, non-profit consumer advocacy organization—and direct its Litigation Division for over 20 years, served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, lectured at 8 law schools across the country including Stanford, Harvard, and NYU, and wrote numerous law review articles and books.

One of the books that he has written, *Beyond the Big Law Firm: Profiles of Lawyers Who Want Something More*, is especially relevant for students seeking careers in the public interest arena. In it, Morrison tells the stories of thirty lawyers who have found success in aspects of the law at places other than large law firms. The profiles were accumulated by Morrison's students at Stanford Law School, and describe lawyers of all backgrounds, educations, genders, and ethnicities who perform public interest law, something virtually all of them are excited to do everyday. Morrison believes that the book describes "careers that many people don't even know exist," and may open peoples' eyes to the many possibilities to do public interest work that are out there.

The law school was fortunate to receive the services of Dean Morrison thanks to a phone call placed by Dean Lawrence last spring. Since that time Morrison has been busy settling into his new position, meeting with the Career

Development Office to explore new ideas on how to provide students with pro bono and public service projects, meeting with a University-wide committee on service projects to help foster greater public service at a University level, and working with other outside attorneys on ongoing court cases.

Dean Morrison hopes to accomplish a great deal through his position, including extending more public service and pro bono opportunities to GW law students, working directly with students in various election reform projects, and making the public service path more affordable through greater summer stipends and reform to the federal loan forgiveness program. In fact, he is most excited to "help students to see how intellectually challenging, exciting, and personally rewarding public service is and to do everything I can to make that more affordable." In other words, to "make it easier for students to do the things that they came to law school to do." Dean Morrison's goals are described in greater detail both in a YouTube clip of his speech at the Newseum event, and in an interview he gave to Sua Sponte this past July.

Likewise, many GW Law students are excited for Dean Morrison's presence this year. As third year student Kimberly Clark explains, "I think it's great that Associate Dean Morrison has come to GW Law." She believes that "his position as Dean of Public Interest will bring greater focus to the area of public interest, an area which seems to be neglected in favor of firms." She is further "encouraged by the

focus he plans on taking to make a public interest career a more realistic option for students that have been taking loans out," and feels that "overall this is a change that GW Law public interest students will really welcome.

It is certain to be an exciting year for Dean Morrison, the Class of 2012, and the GW Law student body as a whole. When asked what advice he would give to the students as they enter this new academic challenge, Morrison had the following recommendation: "Don't forget why you came to law school. Go back and re-read your admissions essay and find a way to do all the things you said you were going to do, both while you are here and beyond."

Justice from page 4.

arrested for contravening the Fugitive Slave Law, juries often acquitted guilty defendants, in effect saying this law is wrong and unjust. The same was done in defiance of anti-miscegenation laws in the twentieth century. The ability of jurors to speak through actions in the courtroom arguably advanced race relations where the law was slow to do so. As the War on Drugs has a clear disproportionate effect on American minorities, it makes sense that Butler would advocate its use today.

Butler's position on jury nullification has evolved over the past decade and a half since he shocked

audiences through his appearances on television shows Donohue, Bill Maher, and 60 Minutes in arguing that black jurists must acquit black defendants who are guilty of so-called victimless crimes—explaining on 60 Minutes, for example, that it is indeed jurors taking the law into their own hands. After appearing on those shows in the mid-nineties Butler says he received a wave of backlash questioning whether his admonitions only applied to black defendants or whether white victims of the war on drugs should be allowed the same constitutional protections of strategic jury nullification when the finders-of-fact were so moved. "One of the most common questions I got from people after I advocated nullification in cases of African-Americans accused of drug crimes was from non-blacks: 'Why can't we nullify in non-violent drug cases too?'" "Now, you can, with my blessing." Butler ceded that all races were indeed owed such protections.

One of the reasons Professor Butler's class has such an impact on students is his eagerness to work policy debates into class time. I asked Professor Butler if these policy debates with his students has had any impact on the evolution of his philosophies on the criminal justice system and he responded unequivocally, yes: "My students always impact my perspective on the issues that we discuss in class. Conversations with hundreds

See Justice on Page 9

FEATURES

Ramen or Strip Steak: Making the Most of Your Loans

BY HEATHER BENTON
Staff Writer

If you don't want to spend the end of your semester eating top ramen and sitting at home on a Friday night, you need to budget your loan refund to last through the semester. So how do you reign in your spending, but still have fun when the tuition at GW is \$42,205 and rising? The financial aid office says that, after tuition is taken out, \$24,095 is sufficient to live off of for an entire year, including books and rent. Even more humbling is the experience that incoming law students have if they worked prior to law school. Suddenly, devoid of any steady income, you are expected to support yourself on what is perhaps one-half to one-third of your previous years' earnings. But if you worked, your refund check the following May will be the best gift of your 1L year while your fellow 1Ls eat Top Ramen, you will be having strip steak. 2L Joon Song, perhaps jokingly, says that you should borrow the maximum and enjoy yourself, but, there are some students who turn green at the mere thought. So for those of you that do turn green, please don't pass out - here are some tips for tightening your boot straps and enjoying your next three years as a law student.

Set up a budget. If you have multiple bills, make sure that you account for them when you plan out how to spend your loan money. Unless you have a part-time job or a trust fund filled with readily accessible cash, you will need that money to cover 12 months of living expenses. Bear in mind that the school sets up the cost of attendance for a 9-month year. You need to live for 12! You may not have a high paying firm job in the summer. In fact, chances are you won't have a paying job at all (now that \$24,095 has gone from \$2600/month to \$2000/month). In addition, minimize your costs and keep track of your spending. Also, see the financial aid website for a breakdown of the cost of attendance.

Re-evaluate your living situ-

Justice from page 8.

of people, especially students, about criminal justice issues, and the fact that incarceration has exploded since I first started talking about these issues, caused the expansion of my proposal for jury nullification to people outside the African-American community."

Professor Butler says he has been very pleased with the reception "Let's Get Free" has received. It's been so well received that he has learned that it will be used as part of the curriculum in law school classes at Georgetown, Northwestern, and NYU, among other schools. As for his students, Professor Butler encourages all to read "Let's Get Free," and put his words into actions when we are given the opportunities to sit on juries here in the District, and become what he refers to as "Martin Luther King jurors."

ation. Do you really need a 2 or 3 bedroom apartment or house all to yourself? Probably not. To reduce your household expenses consider the following:

1. Get a Roommate: GW allocates the housing budget based on students having at least one roommate. Yes, roommates can be annoying, but the expenses saved by sharing a place can be the difference between a ticket home for the holidays and staying in your apartment by yourself eating Lean Cuisine for Thanksgiving.

Can't do the roommate thing? Well, if you can live without bedroom doors for the next 3 years, consider looking into a studio or bachelor apartment (also called an efficiency). DC caters to these types of setups and while your refrigerator may be in your closet, you will certainly survive and save cash. If, on the other hand, you need doors, then look for a one-bedroom apartment a little further out in the district or in Arlington, Virginia or Silver Spring, Maryland. These areas are near metro lines and a one-bedroom apartment in Virginia can run you \$1200 to \$1500, while the same apartment in DC starts around \$1900. Yes, some of you shudder at the idea of suburbia, but saving money on rent means more money for Starbucks and Bar Reviews.

2. Reconsider what you need in your apartment: If you buy enough underwear (very inexpensive at Target), you can turn a trip to the laundry room once every two weeks, into a trip once a month; saving cash and precious time. If you're in DC, you probably don't need or get an in-unit washer and dryer, nor do you need the king size bed and the plasma TV. Now is not the time to go on a shopping spree. Treat yourself to the high-end toys after graduation. If you packed up a lot of items from college that are usable or you lived on your own prior to moving, bring what you have, but consider the size of your place. Many apartments in DC are relatively small and too much stuff will simply clutter up your apartment and cause frustration. Storage costs will also eat up your loan money if you can't keep

everything in your apartment.

Kick Your Shopping Addiction. Yes, those Ferragamo shoes and the Dolce & Gabana suit look amazing and will look fabulous during your interview at next year's Fall Recruiting Program, but if you have one, then you're set for the year. For those of you that insist on brand names try Filene's Basement. The work involved in sorting through the clothing will pay off when you can score a \$400 shirt for a quarter of the price.

Get the Necessities. There are some basics that every student needs to have.

1. Internet for your apartment: Don't be that guy sitting in the soft lounge all day and all night mooching off the school's less than stellar wireless internet. You will be doing a lot of research and gchatting, so having an easily accessible internet may cost you a little, but save you a lot in the long run.

2. Good Winter Gear: While it doesn't snow all winter in DC, it can get quite chilly. Spending \$150 to \$200 on a good cold weather jacket will save you a couple of hundred dollars in the long run because you won't need to keep replacing the items nor will you be cold all winter. Check out the sporting goods store at Pentagon City. They have great sales on Columbia, NorthFace and Patagonia coats and they have a much larger selection than department stores

3. A Good Suit and Shoes: Shortly, you will encounter interviews for summer jobs and internships and you want to look snazzy and put-together. While it is all about first impressions, you still don't need that high-end suit. A solid shirt with a basic black suit will do. Try Macy's on one of its many sales days. They have sales just because the sun shines. You can't miss them. They have high quality suits that are marked down by up to 50%.

4. A solid backpack: Backpacks may seem dorky and so junior high, but you want a good bag. It's worth a little more money for the peace of mind that you will have knowing that your books won't suddenly spill out on the metro when the bottom falls through (it happens), or that you will not be left carting 3 casebooks in your arms and carrying an umbrella in the frequently inclement weather.

5. A Good Umbrella: When it rains here, it pours; gale force winds included. You want an umbrella that won't flip inside out at the smallest gust. Sorry to say, but if you are from a fairly dry state, the umbrella you purchased there will not survive here. Target carries great umbrellas for a reasonable price. Go for a fold-down golf size umbrella to protect your books and laptop on the walk to school.

Speaking of walking...

Getting Around

1. Leave your car at home - 3L Denise L. Turner suggests getting rid of your car note if you have one. Pay off your car if you must have it or sell it and save the money for future needs.

2. Learn to love the metro - DC has a great metro system and riding it, rather than driving, will save you gas money. Get to know it and the bus system as well. Purchase a Smart trip card and use that when boarding the metro and the bus. It's much faster than the tickets and you can register them so that if you lose them you will get your money back. (\$5 for the card and \$25 to top it up if you buy it online or \$5 for the card plus \$5 loaded if you buy at a metro station). If you get a granny cart you can use the metro for most, if not all your errands, and you won't have to worry about carrying heavy bags.

3. Register for a Zipcar account. This is a shared car service that you can rent hourly or daily with gas and insurance included. Make sure you register as a GW student so you get a discount on the yearly fee. Several students can split the cost of a vehicle and run all your errands on the same day as you will find there are some things that are just better accessed with a vehicle.

4. Don't forget about parking. If you really feel like you need a car, note the parking requirements. There are certain neighborhoods where you can't get a student pass to park on the streets and then you must register your car in Washington, DC and obtain a DC license (both added expenses). Also, consider the cost to park in your apartment building and the cost to park at school. The Marvin Center Garage charges \$220 a month to park, with a monthly pass. The daily rate varies between \$10 and \$16 a day without a pass.

Learn To Cook: Guys, pay attention; this is not just for girls. The average cost for lunch at Au Bon Pain is around \$8 and at Wendy's it's \$6 or more. You can save yourself a lot of money by learning to cook and brown-bagging it. There are refrigerators, freezers and microwaves at the school, so bringing lunch is easy. Frozen meals are often on sale for a dollar or two a piece. If the thought of cooking appalls you, but you don't want to spend money, try hovering around the hard lounge during the evenings. Student organizations typically cater their meetings with pizza or other goodies and that means free food once the meeting is over.

Put the Credit Card Away: Save

See Loans on Page 10

Editor from page 3.

to discover something new about yourself. Hold on to that reason. And savor this time of the newness - the discovery - and the now. Embrace the unknown and realize that you don't have all the answers - but neither does the next guy. No one understands what you are going through, not even other law students. And that's why you're here. To learn the law YOUR way. And to learn how to think and conduct yourself in the professional manner that will mark the rest of your days.

So, in other words - keep your humanity. Guard it very, very carefully because there are so many times

you might lose it. Because law school is tough - not just the amount of work you are expected to produce, but the amount of things that you learn a lot about yourself over the next three years. You will change. And that's ok. Just remember - you are still the brilliant, weird, amazing person that you were when you first set foot in Lerner Hall on that ridiculously muggy day so many days ago.

If you can trust yourself when all others are telling you differently. If you can keep your head when your professor drills you. If you can walk with Lawrence, Kerr, Butler, and all other greats - but not lose your everyday stride. If you can recognize exactly what you do know, and realize that it is meaningless compared to what you don't. If you

can have the courage to raise your hand to add to genuine intellectual discourse, and have the wit to bite your tongue when it won't. If you can hold your convictions close on the road to knowledge, yet bid others a gracious farewell when your paths must divide for opinion's sake. Or if you can open your mind to embrace a whole new vision of the world, yet keep your feet firmly planted. If you can clash and parry with peers on endless hours - yet go home and not raise a contrary word to your loved ones. If you can learn to think like a lawyer, yet keep your sense of self when the day is done.

Then you'll truly be the best student you can ever hope to be.

FEATURES

A Toast:
To a Great Year
at GW Law!

BY JOON SONG
Columnist

Greetings, all!
I am The Nota Bene's resident wine writer/chief boozier. You might already know me as the Director of Mentoring for the Student Bar Association, which is basically the same thing.

All kidding aside, congratulations on your admission to The George Washington University Law School! Some of you don't drink, which is great (on the wallet and liver). For those of you who do, however, you will probably be drinking heavily during the first few weeks of school. And why not? This is the time to do it, as long as you do it responsibly or at least irresponsibly in the company of responsible friends.

But once you're done getting Jägerbombs and huge steins of Bud Light or Yuengling at, say, Recessions or Froggy Bottom, you should check out the multitude of wine stores in the area for a few bottles of something nice.

My personal favorite is The Wine Specialist, located at 2115 M Street, NW. It's very close to the Aston and is thus popular with the GW Law crowd. They have frequent free tastings, ranging in price and alcohol by volume from beers to wines to Scotches and gins. Their sales staff is knowledgeable and friendly. While they have great French, Italian, and Spanish wines, great beers, and a few more obscure gems like the Hakutsuru Superior Junmai Ginjo sake and St. Germain elderflower liqueur, their California and U.S. selections are a bit underwhelming. But then again, I'm

from California, so I might be biased.

If for some reason you need a bottle and you're at school, you should stop by Bell Liquor & Wine Shoppe, located at 1821 M Street, NW. They have free weekly wine tastings consisting of flights of about 8-15 wines, as well as monster free wine tastings that range from 20-30+.

For those of you who are closer to Dupont Circle, you have two options.

*In the end, that is
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behind this column:
drink better. Most of
us are living on savings
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count: don't pay interest
on terrible wine.*

The first is Cairo Wine & Liquor at 1618 17th Street, NW. The second is the Connecticut Avenue Wine & Liquor Deli at 1529 Connecticut Avenue, NW. The former actually has some great deals, while the latter is a bit pricier. However, these are great stops in case you're going to a house party or a dinner up in Dupont Circle or on U Street.

There are a number of other places, but I didn't want to take up all the room in this column to list wine
See Toast on Page 7

Loans from page 9.

whatever available credit you have for emergencies. Not using your cards will save you in finance charges and poten-

*You can live in DC on
a budget. You just need
to be smart about your
planning. Make the best
of the next 3 years and
enjoy DC.*

tially rising interest rates.

Buy Used: With a little internet searching, you can often find the same editions of your textbooks and supplements for a significantly lower price. A 1L last year was able to get her supplements for \$1 a piece at Amazon.com by shopping used. Also, check with upperclassmen, who may sell them to you on the cheap.

Be Smart About Booze: Everyone loves a good beer or a great cocktail, especially law students. But the cost of alcohol can easily eat up your cash. The cost of a single drink in DC can run you \$7 or more, which means at the end of the night, your tab could easily go over \$50. Instead of hitting a trendy bar downtown, go to Thirsty Thursdays in the Student

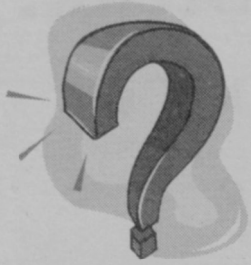
lounge where the booze is free. Attend the SBA sponsored bar reviews with a tab, or cheap drink specials, or even better, warm up to that lonely 2L or 3L at the bar and get them to buy you a drink.

Watch Your Stuff: Misplacing your stuff, or mistrusting your fellow students, with your laptop or iPhone can cost you more than outlines or photos. It could be up to a \$1500 mistake and a headache you don't need. And since items can also go missing from your home, you should consider...

Renter's Insurance: It's like American Express... don't leave home without it. For a minimal yearly fee, you can protect the items in your apartment in the event of theft or other unnatural event that isn't covered by your lease. Make sure you take photographs of your apartment and store them in a safe place in the event your items do go missing.

Health Insurance: If you're lucky enough to still be covered by your parent's insurance, skip this. If not, definitely get the school's health insurance. It seems costly up front (\$1600), but you'll be glad you have it when flu season comes around. As an added bonus, with GW's student health insurance, trips to GW's Health Services are free! And lastly,

Do DC for Free. Washington, DC plays hosts to a vast collection of museums in the Smithsonian, which offers free



Ask Yunji!

BY YUNJI KIM
Columnist

Dear Yunji

Is it true? Are there really no attractive people at our law school?

Panicking by the Potomac

Dear Panicking,

Rest assured - there are plenty of attractive people at our illustrious school. Many a day I have sat in the hard lounge searching for pretty passersby and my eyes have never failed to find a pleasant resting spot. Once you get over your fear of being called on in class (yes, the fear will subside) you will find plenty of reasons to blatantly turn your cheek to the professor to ogle the hottie sitting three seats down.

The law school is just brimming with smart and witty people who know exactly what you're going through. So remember to look up from your Civ Pro textbooks, stop your quaking, and take a minute to ask yourself, "How does he get his hair to look like that?"

Sincerely,

Yunji

Got a question about what's going around the law school, Foggy Bottom, or the world in general? Email notabenegw@gmail.com and ask what's on your mind. Yunji has the answer!

CLARE CAVALIERO

De Novo Days
Lesson One

Oh, Orientation. I must have attended at least a million orientation sessions by now, none of which are particularly interesting or particularly useful, but all are "mandatory" nonetheless. Law school orientation is a unique breed of this species, as the administration tries its best to balance providing the students with brutal honesty about the cliff they are about to jump off and offering words of encouragement regarding the incredible journey upon which they are about to embark.

I distinctly remember my first day of orientation at GW Law. I was sitting at a table in the Marvin Center, looking around at all the suits, asking myself whether the stuffy people suffocating in their three-pieces in the middle of August were really going to be my future classmates, when my first law school friend walked in the door. She was not wearing a suit.

Like cattle, the 1Ls-to-be were herded into the auditorium for our first pep talk. Of all the legendary deans and professors who attempted to spark some laughter with their stories, one professor's anecdote stuck out most. In short, he explained that while he was working for a big firm in Chicago, he gained excellent life perspective. An attorney and his client were about to close a deal that would

have brought a large amount of money to the firm. The client proposed that the two meet on Thursday afternoon to finalize their agreement. The attorney refused. He takes his son to Cubs games on Thursdays and that is "their day." Pretty

*Don't be that student.
Asking irrelevant
questions will get you
nowhere the first day of
classes, or any other class
day, for that matter. Law
school is a marathon,
not a sprint. You will be
great.*

amazing, huh? The professor explained the importance of family and maintaining a work-life balance, which was uplifting to hear after being forewarned that I would disappear into a black hole for the next three years of my life. Lesson 1: There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Fast forward to my first day of classes as a 1L. As luck would have it, my first class was taught by that very profes-

See Days on Page 11

admission. Visit the Smithsonian on the weekend. Take in the cherry blossoms in the spring and attend the arts and craft festival. Head out to the High Heeled Race in Dupont Circle in October and laugh as people try to run in high heels wearing various forms of ridiculous costumes (last year someone was dressed as the National

Monument). When the weather permits, exercise outside. Go down to the National Mall and play soccer or Frisbee. Walk around Eastern Market or sample some fruit at the local farmers markets. You can live in DC on a budget. You just need to be smart about your planning. Make the best of the next 3 years and enjoy DC.

FEATURES

Why from page 3.

law school because I wasn't sure what I wanted to do. I was seven months from graduating with a Women's Studies degree, and realized that there weren't a whole lot of job options available to me that wouldn't stress me out constantly (or pay me enough to warrant constantly being stressed out). A professor I had at the time suggested I consider law school, and when a professor that was the former mayor of Toledo and member of the Ohio House tells you to think about law school, you should probably listen. So I listened – sort of. I signed up for the next month's LSAT (Preparation? What's that?), took it, and waited. During that time, I started researching the law schools to which I wanted to apply, careers that combined my love of women's issues and the law, and realized that law school might actually be for me.

That is, until I started. I quickly became disillusioned with law school, and gave myself a one-year time frame to decide if I really wanted to stay at GW. I complained, whined, and cried perpetually throughout the school year (thank you if you dealt with me during those times!), and I'm sure that some people didn't think I deserved to be here. People around me were, to paraphrase McDonalds, "loving it!" and I definitely was not. After making it through my 1L year, however, I was able to step back and objectively consider what I love and what I hate about the law, realizing that I actually should be here,

Days from page 11.

sor. Prior to law school, I affectionately referred to the first day of classes as "Syllabus Day." You walked in, the professor introduced himself, passed out a syllabus, he left. 15-minute process. Syllabus Day. It was great! Lesson 2: This is not what happens on the first day of law school. Of course there are introductions, preliminary matters, professor-specific rules and cautionary advice (e.g., this particular professor yells "SHAME!" at any student arriving late to his class), but you do not receive a syllabus. You should have gotten that weeks ago and read ahead through October by now. Slacker. You do not leave early. In fact, you never leave class early in law school. Sigh.

Lesson 3: Be prepared (for your classes and your peers). Some students will get to class thirty minutes early on the first day to secure "prime seating." If you have a preference as to where your tush will rest all semester, bring your "A" game. These same students who show up to class unreasonably early tend to have other unbecoming qualities. We unaffectionately refer to these students as "gunners." Most often, you will learn who these students are the first few days of classes. For example, in my first class on day one of my 1L-year, a professor offered a brief overview of the topics he would cover throughout the semester. He then opened up the floor for questions. A hand shot up. This student then asked a progression of at least ten questions – none of which were particularly relevant to the brief overview of topics that were previously discussed. Eventually, the professor stopped responding to the hand waving in his face and, with begging eyes, asked if anyone else had questions about the course. Lesson 4: Don't be that student. Asking irrelevant questions will get you nowhere the first day of classes, or any other class day, for that matter. Law school is a marathon, not a sprint. You will be great. Best of luck!

because whatever I want to accomplish during my life will be easier to do with a law degree. The mental gymnastics you go through here are like exercise – you will notice a difference in the way you think, reason, and analyze everything in your life, not just legal problems or issues. It's rewarding.

I refuse to make a blanket statement about whether students should apply to law school based on the economy. At first thought, it doesn't sound like a good idea, not just for them but also for the students who are genuinely interested in a legal career. But just as many different people have different interests, there are a variety of things to like about law school. Coming to law school because you aren't sure what else to do doesn't mean you will be a lower quality lawyer or advocate, it just means you are on your way to discovering what interests you.

Toast from page 10.

shops. There are a few little "quirks" you should know about DC before you venture forth into that wine-filled night.

For instance, all the shops I named will be closed on Sunday. This might not come as a surprise to those of you from more Puritanical states, but it certainly did to me. Therefore, if you intend on drinking anything fancy at home on a Sunday evening, be sure to do your shopping the day prior.

And you can't do your shopping at most markets, any drugstore, or gas station. What's up with not being able to buy a 40 at the gas station? Or a handle of vodka at the local CVS? You will, however, be able to purchase wine and beer at Trader Joe's and Whole Foods—even on a Sunday.

This shouldn't come as a surprise to you (if you've already received your financial aid award letter), but just as the cost of living is higher in DC, the cost of alcohol is higher, too. Most bottles are anywhere from one to five dollars more here than they are in other states. Then again, at the Georgetown Dean & DeLuc, I found a delightful \$45 bottle of wine—the Sean Thackrey Pleiades XVI, from Bolinas, California—which retails for around \$24 in my home state.

Even the ubiquitous "Two-Buck Chuck" is not \$1.99 but a whopping \$2.99/bottle at your local DC Trader Joe's. Not that I'm condoning Charles Shaw—except for, say, making sangria. Instead, I would advocate perhaps drinking less but drinking better when you do. Even adding a few more dollars to the price of Three-Buck Chuck will give you a wine that is substantially better.

In the end, that is the guiding principle behind this column: drink better. Most of us are living on savings and financial aid, so every dollar should count: don't pay interest on terrible wine.

So, I hope you will check in with me often, and I hope you'll take some of my recommendations. I like talking about wine in general, so if you see me in the lounges, please feel free to say hello!

You can also catch up on Joon's drinking schedule at "Vinicultured," his wine blog (<http://vinicultured.com>).

Bar Brief: Public Bar

By SET SAMII AND LISA STRAUSS
Columnists



Trust Us, We're Experts

We're back suckas! We know you missed our shining faces and our adorable snark so here it goes again...We promise to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. As future members of the DC Lawyers Assistance Program, we are proud to present a bi-weekly run-down of DC hotspots. After a 3-month summer hiatus, we are excited to be back to our usual bar hopping shenanigans. For the first Nota Bene of the year, we are doing a review of the most recent addition to the Dupont Circle bar scene, Public Bar.

Before getting into this review, we'd like to introduce ourselves to the new batch of 1Ls at GW Law (everyone else, you, unfortunately, know us by now). Set is a recent graduate of GW undergrad (no she did not wear tights, an oversized white t-shirt, big black sunglasses, or carry a \$5K bag...) and DC's very own former bar wench. You will likely meet her soon as she will probably harass you at Bar Review, which she is now partially in charge of organizing (suggestions welcome!). Lisa, a Chicago/Philadelphia-import, is thrilled to be able to use her newest batch of loan money to buy drinks, not books.

Public Bar

Case: Summer review of Public Bar, the new bar now replacing the formerly glorious Club Five in Dupont. Our first experience at Public was for Set's birthday in June. Needless to say, we returned many more times throughout the rest of summer.

Facts: We'd been hearing about the opening of Public for a couple of months and Set's birthday presented the perfect opportunity to check this place out. The outside is like every other row bar in Dupont, but upon entering, you know Public is going to be something different. The first "upscale sports bar" to hit DC, Public has everything anyone (and we mean anyone) could want from a bar. Part sports bar, part upscale lounge, part neighborhood watering hole, Public is the perfect mix of class, crass, and sweet pieces of a\$\$ (...yes, we'll be here all year, be sure to tip your waitress). Upon entrance, we could tell we were in for a good night. The interior has a very nicely done sports theme and three floors of bar space make it easy to find a nook for your group. We got there around 10:30 and set up shop on the fabulous rooftop. Seriously, this is one of the best rooftop bars in DC! But be warned, it gets SUPER crowded! By 11:00, the roof is usually packed and the line to get in is around the block. Lucky for us, we had taken over the entire front

bar, but still, it was crowded and hot up there.

Issue: Why the 3 flights of steep stairs to get to the roof bar? Just because it's a sports bar does not make us athletes! And why the \$9 drinks served in small plastic cups? If we're spending 1/4 of our loan checks in a night here, we should be getting our money's worth! And why are there bathrooms only on the 3rd floor? At one point during the night, we headed for the bathrooms to wipe the sweat from our brows after busting a move on the dance floor, only to be told that (1) the bathrooms were downstairs and (2) we had to wait in line to get back on the roof.

Holding: Nice bar that's usually filled with attractive people. Expensive drinks though and super crowded on the weekends. Be wary of the cast of the Real World showing up here since their house is a few blocks away (remember kids, always read the fine print on that release form before you make a fool of yourself on TV).

Rule: Public is definitely up there on our list of fave DC bars. The roof is great, but we just wish they'd let a few less people up at a time. We're interested to see how the scene changes when the warm weather disappears, but we'll surely be hitting up this bar during the early fall.

Do you have suggestions, comments, concerns or just need a bar recommendation? Email us at gwbarbrief@gmail.com.

THE BACK PAGE

ON THE DOCKET

law school events

Monday August 17

Orientation for transfer and visiting students

Fall Recruitment Program Orientation for 2L and 3L students

Tuesday August 18

Orientation for part-time students

Fall Recruitment program begins for 2L and 3L students

Wednesday August 19

Orientation for full-time students

Monday August 24

Classes begin for all 1Ls and international students

Friday August 28

Orientation for U.S. LLM students

Tuesday September 1

Lecture

Seán Aylward, the Secretary General of the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Ireland
4:00-5:30pm, B505

Wednesday September 2

Lecture

Mr. Vito Cozzoli, the Chief of the Legal Office of Italian Chamber of Deputies(Parliament), will give a lecture.
12:00-1:00pm, B505

Monday September 7

Labor Day (no classes)

Monday September 7

Last Day of Add/Drop

Saturday September 26

Alternative Dispute Resolution Competition

Thursday October 1

Alumni Weekend Begins

Horoscopes

ARIES (MARCH 21—APRIL 19)

It doesn't feel like it now, but all those loans are worth it

TAURUS (APRIL 20—MAY 20)

You spent too much on your books. Don't worry, everyone else did, too.

GEMINI (MAY 21—JUNE 21)

Do a good deed today and you will be rewarded.. With laughter.

CANCER (JUNE 22—JULY 22)

Go enjoy the day - you have all year to worry about your reading!

LEO (JULY 23—AUG. 22)

Someone likes you...they're sitting in the hard lounge right now.

VIRGO (AUG. 23—SEPT. 22)

The world is not conspiring against you. I think.

LIBRA (SEPT. 23—OCT. 23)

Wow, you're going to be THAT law student, aren't you?

SCORPIO (OCT. 24—NOV. 21)

I really hope you've started your reading for the week..

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22—DEC. 21)

Today's just not your day. Nope, tomorrow ain't either.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 22—JAN. 19)

Thanks for reading this issue. We realize you have many choices in procrastination and appreciate your business.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20—FEB. 18)

Keep a change of clothes in your locker. Just in case.

PISCES (FEB. 19—MARCH 20)

Free food for you in the hard lounge. Just you!

Perversed & Reprimanded

W.W.

Hey, did you guys hear about the secret quiet study room on the roof???

Yeah!! I heard it's super-quiet and there is always room!!

Nice!!

Let's go!!

1L orientation

Hahahaha!! Stupid freshmen.

Fresh people chick -- stupid fresh people.